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Govt rolls out nationwide Eid security plan

BSS, Dhaka

The government has announced a comprehensive nationwide security and monitoring plan ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, focusing on safe travel, prevention of extortion, cattle market security, fair prices for sacrificial animal hides, and uninterrupted public services during the holiday period.

"We have taken wide-ranging decisions to ensure public safety and smooth Eid celebrations across the country," said Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday.

He made the remarks while speaking to journalists after a high-level interministerial meeting on ensuring overall security ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha at the Secretariat.

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Jamaat spent Tk 4.49cr in 13th national polls

Says the party in expenditure statement to EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami spent Tk 4.49 crore during the 13th national election, according to the party's expenditure statement submitted to the Election Commission yesterday.

Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair submitted the statement to EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed. Signed by Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar, the report said the party spent a total of Tk 4,49,47,972 for election-related activities.

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Higher deposits, no posters in local polls

EC drafting unified code of conduct for elections to all local govt tiers

AHMED DEEPTO

The Election Commission has begun drafting a unified code of conduct for elections to all five local government tiers, with provisions to ban posters and increase security deposits for the polls, likely to be held later this year.

As part of the preparation, the commission is also working to amend relevant laws and regulations, as existing codes of conduct vary across different local government tiers.

An EC meeting is scheduled for today at 10:30am to discuss the proposed reforms, Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmani Masud told The Daily Star.

"The discussion will focus on what changes are needed in the law and what amendments should be made to election rules and codes of conduct," he said.

He also said a final draft will be prepared after the meeting and later placed before the full commission for approval.

Masud said several reforms are being considered. "Posters will not be allowed. Online submission of nomination papers will not continue. Independent candidates will no longer need to submit documents showing minimum

support."

He added, "There should be a single code of conduct for all local government tiers."

The EC is preparing to hold elections to five non-partisan local government bodies -- city corporations, municipalities, district councils, upazila parishads, and union parishads.



The commission is also reviewing proposals to allow billboard campaigning, and expand social media use for electioneering

Bangladesh currently has 13 city corporations, 500 upazila parishads, 61 district councils, and 4,580 union parishads.

The commission faces a backlog of local government elections, as the tenures of many bodies have already expired. No local government polls have been held in more than two years.

After the fall of the Awami League government in August 2024, the interim government did not arrange any local polls. An ordinance was issued to suspend voting with party symbols.

EC officials said local government laws and regulations will be aligned with the Representation of the People Order (RPO), election rules, and codes of conduct.

The commission is also reviewing proposals to increase security deposits,

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President undergoes angioplasty in the UK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Mohammed Shahabuddin underwent a successful stent implantation procedure yesterday the UK.

His condition is stable, the president's Press Secretary Sarwar Alam confirmed in a press release.

According to his personal physician Col AKM Faizul Huq, "A significant blockage was detected in President Shahabuddin's heart during a routine health check-up in the UK. An emergency angioplasty was then successfully performed, and a stent [ring] was placed."

The procedure was conducted at Royal Papworth Hospital in Cambridge under supervision of interventional cardiologist Stephen Hoole, the release added.

Future generations to be inspired by July Museum

Says Speaker Hafiz Uddin

BSS, Dhaka

Speaker of the parliament Hafiz Uddin Ahmad yesterday said the July Museum will inspire future generations by preserving the history of resistance against autocracy.

"The history of people's resistance will remain preserved as long as this museum exists," he told reporters after visiting the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum alongside Deputy Speaker Barrister Kayser Kamal and Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury in the capital.

The speaker said the museum portrays repression, violence and killings during the 16-year rule of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, which he described as an "autocratic mafia regime" sustained through "staged and controversial elections".

Referring to incidents of enforced disappearances under the previous government, Hafiz Uddin said Sheikh Hasina's expressions of sympathy toward victims' families had become "a stain in history".

He added that the sacrifices made by ordinary people in democratic and anti-autocracy movements between 1971 and 2024 were unparalleled in the struggle to establish democracy in the country, according to a press release.

At the briefing, the cultural affairs minister said the museum will open to the public by late July or early August.



A group of around 60 students and two faculty members from Jagannath University's Department of Mass Communication and Journalism visited a special exhibition at The Daily Star Centre yesterday, calling for accountability and justice over the attacks on The Daily Star and Prothom Alo.

PHOTO: STAR

SHAPLA CHATTAR CRACKDOWN

'Try those behind killings, ensure justice for victims'

Say speakers at National Ulama Alliance event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the killings during a Helafat-e-Islam rally at Shapla Chattar in the capital's Motijheel on May 5, 2013 a gross violation of human rights, speakers yesterday demanded justice for those who lost their lives.

Speaking at a programme titled "Shapla Massacre: A Decade of Impunity", organised by the National Citizen Party-backed National Ulama Alliance at the Institution of Diploma Engineers in Dhaka's Kakrail, they also demanded official recognition of the victims as "martyrs".

Writer and thinker Farhad Mazhar said resisting oppression is the essence of Islam. "Whenever

I fail to stand against the oppressor, I deviate from Islam."

Referring to the May 5 incident, he said it was about citizens' rights to speak, express anger, and protest in Bangladesh.

"In bourgeois democracy, the first thing is freedom of expression and protest. But what did they show us? They showed that people can even be deprived of minimum democratic and human rights," he said.

He also criticised how the victims were portrayed after the crackdown.

"I came to Dhaka to speak my words. I was shot and killed. Afterwards, they mocked me, saying I was only lying down

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JnU journalism students visit Star exhibition

Demand justice for attacks on media houses

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Jagannath University's Department of Mass Communication and Journalism yesterday visited a special exhibition at The Daily Star Centre, calling for accountability following the attacks on the newspaper and Prothom Alo.

A group of around 60 students and two faculty members toured the exhibition in the morning. They later watched a documentary produced for the newspaper's anniversary programme.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam met the group from JnU alongside Consulting Editor Kamal Ahmed, Deputy Editor Arun Devnath, and Chief Reporter (Digital) Rashidul Hasan.

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